

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. The claims were twice amended during the International Stage; the present amendment amends the claims relative to their final form as presented in the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report.

The specification has been amended to recite the status of the application as a national stage application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and to insert the priority claim.

Please associate this application with, and direct all written correspondence to, **Customer No. 23369, Howrey Simon Arnold & White, LLP**. Please direct all telephone calls to Ira D. Finkelstein, Reg. No. 44,680, at 713-787-1631.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the filing fees of **\$1080.00**, as well as any other fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 that may be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508, Order No. 10025.0157.PCUS00.

The Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (713) 787-1631 to discuss any issues presented by these application papers.

Respectfully submitted,



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